

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (cancelled).

Claim 2 (currently amended). Device according to Claim 1-7,

wherein ~~the said~~ pull-through rod (24) is ~~bent in at least an approximately semicircular shape and can be swiveled swivelable~~ over a range of at least approximately 180°.

Claim 3 (currently amended). Device according to Claim 1-7 or 2,

wherein the swivel axis (23) of ~~the said~~ pull-through rod is laterally offset with respect to the ~~filling tube axis of the filling tube, and the said closing device (11) can be elements are~~ laterally offset displaceable by approximately the same degree as said lateral offset of said swivel axis of said pull-through rod, with respect to ~~the said~~ filling tube (2) from a working position in which the center axis (11a) of ~~the said~~ closing device (11) elements is coaxially aligned with ~~the said~~ axis (2a) of ~~the said~~ filling tube (2).

Claim 4 (currently amended). Device according to Claim 3,

wherein actuation of the ~~offset movement of the displacement of the closing device elements (11)~~ first results in initiates axial displacement of the casing brake (5) being pulled away from the filling tube (2), the displacement of the casing brake taking place prior to the displacement of the closing elements.

Claim 5 (**currently amended**). Device according to Claim 3 , wherein the return of the pull-through rod (24) to ~~its idle~~ said second position is coupled with the return ~~motion~~ of the closing device elements to ~~its working the~~ position they occupied prior to said displacement .

Claim 6 (**currently amended**). Device according to Claim 4, wherein the return of the pull-through rod (24) to ~~its idle~~ said second position is coupled with the return ~~motion~~ of the closing device elements to ~~its working the~~ position they occupied prior to displacement .

Claim 7 (**new**). Device for pulling a front end of a tubular casing from a filling tube of an apportioning filling machine, over which said casing is placed, away from an orifice of said filling tube and through a casing brake and closing elements of said filling machine, said device comprising a pull-through rod having a clamping hook on one end thereof for clamping said front end of said casing, said pull-through rod having a semicircular shape and being swivelable about an axis which is perpendicular to the axis of said filling tube, from a first position, in which it passes through the casing brake and closing device and in which position said clamping hook on said one end of said pull-through rod is located proximate said orifice of said filling tube, to a second position in which the pull-through rod is swiveled and said clamping hook is moved away from said orifice and through said casing brake and closing device.